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**AKAITCHO INTERIM LAND WITHDRAWAL  
OF COMMISSIONER'S LANDS  
WITHIN THE CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE**

**Questions and Answers**

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**1. What is an interim land withdrawal?**

- A.** An interim land withdrawal protects land from being disposed (for example sold or leased) of while negotiations are ongoing. It is a temporary measure – referred to as “interim” – that allows the parties to focus on reaching an overall agreement with the assurance that the land will be available for selection at a later date. An interim land withdrawal provides comfort that no new interests will be created in the withdrawn land.

**2. What's the difference between interim land withdrawal and land selection?**

- A.** An interim land withdrawal is not the same as land selection. Interim land withdrawal is a temporary measure that protects land so that it may be identified for selection at a later stage in negotiations. Land selection, which also occurs through a process of negotiations, results in agreement regarding which lands will be identified as Akaitcho Dene Lands in a completed Akaitcho Agreement. Lastly, an interim land withdrawal does not mean that all the lands withdrawn can or will be selected. Land selection negotiations generally occur closer to an Akaitcho agreement.

**3. What is the term (length) of the interim withdrawal of Commissioner's Land?**

- A.** The term of the interim withdrawal is five years, or until an agreement is concluded – whichever happens first.

**4. How much land has been withdrawn in the City of Yellowknife for the Akaitcho process?**

- A.** The GNWT will withdraw from disposition, 1034 hectares of Commissioner's Land in the City of Yellowknife, which is approximately 2550 acres.

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**5. What are “Commissioner’s Lands?”**

- A.** Commissioner’s Lands are lands that the Government of Canada has transferred to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories’ Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is responsible for the administration and control of Commissioner’s land.

**6. Where exactly are the withdrawn lands in the City of Yellowknife?**

- A.** The withdrawn areas include the Ski Club area, a one-hectare parcel in the Capital Site Area for a future ADFN building, two parcels of vacant undeveloped lands west of the airport, and the islands northwest of N’Dilo. These lands are shown on a map forming part of this information package.

**7. If the withdrawn land has a third party interest, such as the Ski Club lands, what does that mean for the third party?**

- A.** Existing interests in land are unaffected by interim withdrawal. The GNWT’s lease to the City of Yellowknife for the land in the ski club area will be honoured.

**8. How will the GNWT protect third party interests on withdrawn land?**

- A.** The GNWT will honor all existing interests on withdrawn lands. The Interim Land Withdrawal Protocol signed by Canada, the GNWT and the ADFN in November 2005 also explicitly states that existing interests in withdrawn lands are not affected by the withdrawal.

**9. What does this mean for the Ski Club?**

- A.** The City of Yellowknife sub leases this land to the Ski Club. Changes to this arrangement are between the City and the Ski Club. The GNWT will honour its lease to the City for the ski club land.

**10. Who will have municipal authority over withdrawn lands?**

- A.** The City of Yellowknife’s authority over land in the City of Yellowknife, including withdrawn lands, is unaffected by this interim land withdrawal

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**11. Is the interim withdrawal of Commissioner's Lands a matter of public record?**

**A.** Yes. The interim withdrawal of these lands is achieved by an order of the Commissioner of the NWT. These orders are available to the public.

**12. How will City residents be kept informed about developments in the Akaitcho Process negotiations?**

**A.** Akaitcho Process negotiations are not open to the public. The Framework Agreement signed by Canada, the ADFN and the GNWT, which guides the negotiating process, commits the parties to holding the details of positions and documents exchanged or developed during negotiations in confidence. However, the Framework Agreement also contemplates public information sessions on the general status, aims, objectives and progress of negotiations.